

THE SCOLD'S BRIDLE.

Under the name of a scold's bridle, a relic of the past, is now being used in the Public Library of Kentucky.

To the members of the Public Library of Kentucky there came an instrument of torture which reflects as much disgrace on mankind as the rack, the wheel, or any of those machines which were used for the victims of the law. It was a scold's bridle of the kind used years ago in England and Scotland for the punishment of females who were alleged to have made too free use of the tongue. It was dug from the ground in our sister State of Tennessee, where, beneath the walls of an uninhabited building, it had lain time out of mind. It bears the rust of years, and no doubt came to this country with the earliest settlers. Possibly some lord of creation, who had a scolding wife in the old world, brought with him to the new his vixen and instrument of control.

It consists of an iron band to pass under the chin, and over the top part of the head, with a sharp, chisel-shaped projection, extending two inches inwardly, to be inserted into the mouth. It was held to its place by another iron band extending round the back part of the head, and fastened with a padlock. When the instrument was thus put on the scold her tongue had to recede to the back part of her mouth and there remain quiet or be cut to pieces by the sharp edge of the iron put there for that purpose. To speak, or even to talk in this fix is impossible, and the woman thus bridled had to keep silence.

When Blackstone wrote his commentaries it was the law of England that a scolding woman was a nuisance, and she could be indicted and punished by what was known as the ducking stool. This was a kind of a chair, with a seat, and was fastened in a place where she was plunged into the water as often as it was thought her offenses deserved.

Dr. Platt, who wrote a history of Staffordshire, grew eloquent in his description of the brank and in giving its preference over the ducking stool. He said the ducking stool might give the woman cold and thus injure her health, and in addition thereto she could use her tongue during the intervals between ducking and another. The brank was open to none of these objections, in the learned doctor's opinion, but was just the thing for the brank to be done with.

In shape the brank is not unlike the bridle or halter used for mules in this country. The striking difference is in the brank being entirely of iron, while the bridle of the mule is of leather except the bit. The English or Scotch scold must have been a terrible animal to have required a bridle entirely of iron, when it is known here that we can handle mules with leather halters.

We should like to have seen the Englishman or Scotchman, or whoever he was, that brought this instrument to our country. If he was a married man, and this machine was used for his wife, he must have cut a queer figure with his Xantippe and her bridle on board the vessel that bore the precious pair to the New World. If he was an unmarried man, and brought over the brank with the expectation of its necessity among American women, it is to be hoped that he learned better before himself and instrument went beneath the ground.

But there the instrument, the terrible brank, is in the museum of the Public Library, where all may see it who wish. The strong-minded women ought especially to go to see it, and thus arm themselves with a new argument against the trampled down rights of women. Surely the man who invented such an instrument ought to have been made to wear it the balance of his days, and it is strange to us, of this age and country, how men could ever be so stupid as to torture women in this way, even if those women had voluble tongues, and said a thousand and one naughty things, none of which ought to have been said.

The Shakers of the South Union Society have, says the Bowling Green Patriot, a pumpkin-vine which measures, including branches, 474 feet. It bore this year twenty-five pumpkins, which weighed in the aggregate 352 pounds. The Shakers also have a lily of the Nile which may be regarded as a very remarkable plant for this section. It has thirty-eight leaves which grow directly from the bulb, there being no main stalk. One of the leaves of this plant measures fifty-one inches long and thirty-five inches wide, the leaf stalk being six feet high. They have also a Brazilian sweet potato this year which weighs fourteen pounds. It is the largest ever raised by them, and probably the largest in the State. It has a smooth surface and is symmetrically formed.

An important question with regard to Texas cattle trade agitating is the people of Atchison county, Kansas, where determined that no more Texas cattle shall be driven that way. In the vicinity of Lancaster a total of 144 head of Kansas cattle have died, and fifty-three are sick, it is said, from disease contracted from Texas cattle. The citizens of Lancaster have adopted resolutions setting forth that, "in view of the loss we have sustained and the difficulty of discriminating diseased from healthy cattle, to suffer no Texas cattle whatever to be brought into or driven through the township," and to oppose any man for the Legislature "who is not opposed to driving Texas cattle through this part of the State at any season of the year."

Gen. ROBERT E. LEE'S room at Lexington, Virginia, University is to be "forever untouched."

A Good Conscience.

An Indian being among his white neighbors, asked for a little tobacco, and one of these having some loose in his pocket, gave him a handful. The following day, the Indian came back, inquiring for the donor, saying he had found a quarter of a dollar among the tobacco. Being told that, with had been given to him he might as well keep it, he answered, pointing to his breast: "I, a good man and had man here, and the good man says it is not mine, I must return it to the owner; the bad man says: 'Why he gave it to you and its yours now;' the good man says, 'that's not right; the tobacco's yours not the money,' the bad man says, 'never mind, you got it, go buy some more,' the good man says, 'no, no, you must not do so,' so I don't know what to do, and think to go to sleep, but the good man and the bad man keep talking all night and trouble me, and now I bring the money back I feel glad."

William H. Seward.

This great statesman is dead. America has produced few such men of wisdom. He was, for many years, one of our leading politicians, and was sincere in his sentiments. Having retired from public life some few years since in order to restore, if possible, a shattered and continually failing constitution; he sufficiently revived to give the people hope that, ere long, he would again be able to resume his public life. But the disease which preyed upon him, overcame an overworked brain and body, and he has fallen in the death. This event, while it gave but little surprise to all who knew his physical prostration, has caused a heart-felt sorrow to the people of this country. Meander and worse men have fallen, and we sincerely deplore his death.

What Love Is.

Love is a heat full of coldness, a sweet full of bitterness, a pain full of pleasure; born of love, nursed by delight, weaned by jealousy, killed by dissembling, and buried by ingratitude. Love is a chameleon, which draws nothing, it is the most beautiful but the most treacherous of the body but the tongue. A man has choice to begin love, but not to end it. Love-knots are tied with eyes, and cannot be untied with hands; made fast with thoughts, not to be dissolved with fingers.

A sick negro was stripped of his clothing by another negro and then kicked into the street, where he was compelled to stay all night, and where he died. The *Kentuckyan* says: "Talk about man's inhumanity to man as much as you please, but history teaches us that the negro's inhumanity to negroes sends countless thousands of them to the old scratch."

A BANK of excellent mercurium clay has been discovered in Southern California, and workmen are to be imported from Europe to manufacture it into pipes.

The Lexington Press says that the hemp crop is now generally harvested, and conceded to be the finest ever raised in Kentucky.

When a young man in church puts his mouth close to his sweetheart's ear, you may be certain that either his voice is weak or his head.

A CONFIDENT merchant being asked how he spent his evenings, replied: "At night I stole my mind, and during the day I stole my store."

A LOUISVILLE Councilman recently betrayed his knowledge of "ways that are dark" by responding "pass" when his name was called on a vote.

On a Western railway a bride is said to have handed her no-riage certificate to the conductor instead of her ticket, and was horrified to hear this it was not good.

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OUR WOOLEN AND CRIST MILLS are now in perfect running order, and we will manufacture all kinds of

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And sell the same at reasonable prices.

We will also grind CORN or WHEAT on any day, and pay the highest cash price for

BRAN, ship stuff, shuck, meal and flour, always on hand and for sale at market prices.

B. & R. T. MATTHEWS.

JOS. SEVERANCE.

NEW FALL GOODS.

SEVERANCE & MILLER,

North Side Main street, Stanford, Kentucky.

Are now opening their Fall and Winter stock of goods and invite their friends and the public to call and examine them. The attention of the ladies is called to our extensive stock of

DRESS GOODS.

Among which will be found all the popular colors and fabrics. Plain and Fancy Laces, Plain Black Laces, All Wool Delaines, Assorted Colored Poplins, Printed Cottons, Satins, Merinos, Embrasse Chablis, Japanese Silks, Satines, etc.

Notions.

Hosiery, Gloves, Shawls, Ladies Vests and Pans, Gentlemen's Linen Shirts, Marine Shirts and Drawers, Trunks, Valises, etc., etc.

Domestics.

Prints, Brown Cottons, Bleached Cottons, Tickings, Linseys, White and Colored Flannels.

Boots and Shoes

A specialty. In our stock will be found the best home-made Lasting, Kid, Fiddle, Goat, and Calf Shoes for women, misses and children. Also Men's, Boy's and Youth's Best and Shoes of the best manufacture.

Hats, Caps, etc., etc.

We have a Complete

Assortment of Glass and Queensware, Table Cutters, Sissors, etc., etc. In a word, everything usually found in a first-class general store.

SEVERANCE & MILLER.

Mrs. M. GILHAM,

Milliner and Mantua-maker.

Up stairs over Craig & McAlister's store.

STANFORD, KENTUCKY.

I NOW RECEIVING HER LARGE and elegant stock of

Millinery Goods,

Notions,

FANCY GOODS,

TRIMMINGS.

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